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Agenda item 18

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Social Committee

1. The Social Committee considered the question of the advancement of women (agenda item 18) at its 8th to 15th meetings, on 16, 17 and 20 to 22 July 1992. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eleventh session (A/47/38); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2000 (E/1992/6);

(c) Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twelfth session (E/1992/18);

(d) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session (E/1992/24 2/ and Add.1 and 2).

2. At its 8th to 14th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At the 8th meeting, on 16 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1992/24).

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3. At the same meeting a statement was made by the observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I.

4. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, statements were made by the representatives of China, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ecuador, Mexico (also on behalf of Colombia and Venezuela) and by the observer for the Bahamas. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I.

5. At the 10th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

6. At the 11th meeting, on 20 July, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community) and Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand). The observer for the United Nations Development Programme also made a statement.

8. At the 12th meeting, on 20 July, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica, Romania, Bangladesh and Turkey and by the observer for Nigeria.

9. At the 13th meeting, on 21 July, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Australia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Japan and by the observers for New Zealand, Indonesia and Cuba. The representative of the International Labour Organisation also made a statement.

10. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Malaysia, Austria and Belarus and by the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries).

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session

11. Chapter I of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session (E/1992/24) contained seven draft resolutions and two draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council. Eight resolutions of the Commission were brought to the attention of the Council. Programme budget implications of the draft proposals were set out in the addenda to the report (E/1992/24/Add.1 and 2).

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

12. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat" (see para. 31 below, draft resolution I).

13. After the adoption of the draft resolution the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement.

Women and children under apartheid

14. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Women and children under apartheid" by a recorded vote of 33 to 1, with 17 abstentions (see para. 31 below, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Australia made a statement.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

16. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the observer for Israel made a statement.

17. The Secretary of the Committee read out a correction to the English text of the draft resolution as follows: In the fourth preambular paragraph, sixth line, replace the words "controversies over" by "contrary to".

18. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", by a recorded vote of 36 to 1, with 13 abstentions (see para. 31 below, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Australia made a statement.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

20. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the representative of the United States of America made a statement. The Committee then adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (see para. 31 below, draft resolution IV).

Violence against women in all its forms

21. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Violence against women in all its forms" (see para. 31 below, draft resolution V).

Communications on the status of women

22. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VI, entitled "Communications on the status of women" (see para. 31 below, draft resolution VI).

Advancement of women and human rights

23. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VII, entitled "Advancement of women and human rights" (see para. 31 below, draft resolution VII).

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

24. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft decision I, entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission" (see para. 32 below, draft decision I).

Request for additional conference facilities during the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women

25. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee adopted draft decision II, entitled "Request for additional conference facilities during the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women" (see para. 32 below, draft decision II).

Integration of elderly women into development

26. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of Commission resolution 36/4 entitled "Integration of elderly women into development" and endorsed the request for the preparation of a report on the integration of elderly women into development (see para. 32 below, draft decision III).

Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

27. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of Commission resolution 36/8 entitled "Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" and endorsed the recommendation contained therein (see para. 32 below, draft decision IV).

Other proposals

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

28. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, the representative of Argentina, also on behalf of the Bahamas*, Bangladesh, Bolivia*, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, El Salvador*, Guatemala*, Honduras*, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands*, Nicaragua*, Paraguay*, Peru, Romania, Spain, Suriname, Tunisia*, Turkey, Uruguay*, Venezuela* and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Angola, Australia and New Zealand*, introduced a draft resolution (E/1992/C.2/L.6), entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

29. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Chairman informed the Committee that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution (see para. 31 below, draft resolution VIII).

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

30. At the 14th meeting, on 21 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted a draft decision taking note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women at its eleventh session 1/ and transmitting it to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (see para. 32 below, draft decision V).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

31. The Social Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I-VII, SEE THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1992/24), CHAP. I, SECT. A]

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1991/24 of 30 May 1991 in which it took note of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its eleventh session, 1/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/99 of 16 December 1991 in which the Assembly took note of the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its activities, 2/

Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its twelfth session, 3/

Reaffirming the specific and unique role of the Institute in the areas of research and training that would lead to the systematic inclusion of women in mainstream development programmes and projects,

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1/ E/1990/34.

2/ A/46/325, annex.

3/ E/1992/18.

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twelfth session and the decisions contained therein; 3/

2. Expresses its appreciation for the successful implementation of the programmes of the Institute, particularly activities on improving statistics to yield better descriptive data on the situation of women relative to that of men, including elderly women and women in the informal sector; women, the environment and sustainable development; assessing and developing appropriate communication materials on women and development; rural women and credit; and monitoring and evaluation methodologies for programmes and projects on women and development;

3. Takes note of the programme budget of the Institute for the biennium 1992-1993, approved by the Board of Trustees at its twelfth session, and the commencement of work in the areas of appraisal and evaluation of development strategies and programmes for the maximum impact on women and the long-term research project on methods for the measurement of the value of women's work, including that in the informal sector;

4. Commends the sustained efforts made by the Institute to further enhance its linkages with other United Nations organizations, regional commissions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and other organizations and groups with similar interests in developing projects for the advancement of women;

5. Reaffirms the catalytic and advocatory role of the Institute in facilitating the inclusion of women as partners in development through research, training and information activities on issues affecting women and development;

6. Recommends, in view of the increase in research and training being done in the general areas of women and development, that the Institute concentrate on the identification of barriers to improvements in the status of women and the development of tools for the removal of those persistent obstacles to progress;

7. Calls upon States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute through voluntary contributions and pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate.

32. The Social Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT DECISIONS I AND II, SEE THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1992/24), CHAP. I, SECT. B]

DRAFT DECISION III

Integration of elderly women into development

The Economic and Social Council takes note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/4 entitled "Integration of elderly women into development" and endorses the request for the preparation of the report on the integration of elderly women into development.

DRAFT DECISION IV

Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

The Economic and Social Council takes note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 entitled "Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" and endorses the recommendations contained therein.

DRAFT DECISION V

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on its eleventh session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on its eleventh session (A/47/38), and transmits it to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.